COMMANDERS DIGEST

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DOCUMENTS DIVISION

DOD Legislative Proposal Clarifies Retirement Grade

Defense Department has combined and submitted to Congress legislation that will do away with Army and Air Force "hip-pocket" promotions and will allow "top active duty rank" retirements held in any armed service.

The DOD sponsored bill molds into a single piece of legislation the two differing provisions—"hip-pocket" and "top rank"—which had been submitted separately to Congress in the past and had failed to gain passage.

The hip-pocket proposal would rule out full-time active duty members from retiring, for non-disability reasons, in a grade higher than that in which they served "satisfactorily" on active duty for at least six months.

The top-rank-retirement plan would apply to personnel who have served in more than one service. They would be entitled to retire in the highest grade satisfactorily held for six months or longer in any service.

Basically, the top-rank plan creates retirement entitlement on the same basis as if combined service had been in one armed service.

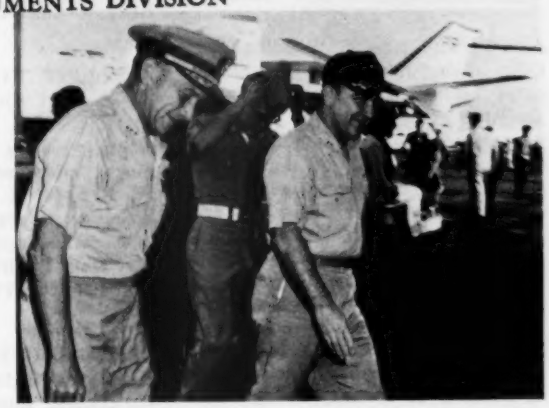
The "hip-pocket" portion dates back to a report made last March to Congress by the Cabinet Committee on Federal Staff Retirement Systems.

"Nondisability retirement in a commissioned grade from full-time active duty should normally entitle the member to retired pay in the highest grade in which he served on active duty satisfactorily for not less than six months," the Cabinet Committee recommended. DOD said it shared this view.

But both the Cabinet Committee and DOD recognize that many officers—largely Army and Air Force career reserve officers with higher permanent than temporary rank—planned their careers with the knowledge of reserve grade entitlements and deserve protection.

"Transitional provisions should protect entitlements already earned, but the privilege thus preserved for an active duty reserve officer based on his higher permanent grade should not survive a subsequent promotion," the Cabinet Committee recommended.

On this same point, DOD said, "an appropriate savings clause has been incorporated in the attached proposed legislation which would protect entitlements already earned."



WELCOME ABOARD—Vice Admiral Bernard F. Roeder, commander First Fleet (left), is escorted across the flight deck of the USS Kitty Hawk by Rear Admiral David C. Richardson, commander Seventh Fleet Attack Carrier Striking Force and Task Force 77. Adm. Roeder joined Adm. Richardson aboard the Kitty Hawk in the Gulf of Tonkin for a conference on the conflict in Vietnam.

Navy Development, Training Center For Petty Officers Opens in July

Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze has announced that a Naval Development and Training Center for certain enlisted personnel will be activated at San Diego, Calif., in July.

When fully operational by the end of 1968, the center will have 1,800 student billets for petty officers, in grades from Second Class to Master Chief.

Mr. Nitze said the center would provide a better shore duty opportunity for some Navy artificers such as shipfitters, boilermen and machinist mates.

These rates have no comparable shore duty jobs and spend, accordingly, more time at sea than such specialists as clerical or data processing personnel, the Navy Secretary pointed out.

The Secretary also said activation of the new training facility was based on two other major factors:

- The need to increase the skill and knowledge of senior petty officers.
- The decreasing availability of time for ships at sea to conduct advanced technical training.

Washington Memos

AIR FORCE RESERVE units flying C-119 Flying Boxcars will be redesignated Tactical Airlift units on July 1, according to Continental Air Command officials. Renaming of current Troop Carrier units of regular and reserve Air Force is being done because "troop carrier" does not adequately describe role and mission of today's tactical airlift forces, CAC officials said.

DEFENSE SECRETARY McNamara selected Mr. Joseph J. Liebling, 47, as Director of Security Policy, effective April 3, to succeed Mr. Walter T. Skallerup who has resigned to return to private law practice. Mr. Liebling's responsibilities will include over-all Department of Defense security policy. He works with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Administration.

BEGINNING APRIL FIRST, Air Force will increase its Southeast Asia aeromedical evacuation service to the U.S. from 11 to 13 flights weekly. These new flights will originate from Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang Air Bases, South Vietnam. All of the trans-Pacific flights are flown by Military Airlift Command aircrews in C-141 Starlifter aircraft.

FORMER ARMY BELL Plant Division at Bell Helicopter Co., Ft. Worth, Tex., is now subordinate activity of Army Aviation Materiel Command, St. Louis. Previously a division of AVCOM's Directorate of Procurement and Production, Bell office is titled Army Aviation Bell Plant Activity. Primarily concerned with Army business, the new activity is also an agent for all federal agencies doing business with Bell, including Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and NASA.

OLDEST NAVY SHIP on continuous active commission, fleet oiler USS Cimarron, celebrated her 28th anniversary March 15 at special ceremonies in Pearl Harbor. RAdm. Edwin B. Hooper, U.S. Pacific Fleet Service Force commander, joined ship's commanding officer, Capt. J. E. Heg, in congratulations to crew.

A FLIGHT NURSE with the 11th Aeromedical Airlift Sq., Scott AFB, Ill., begins a two-year tour next month with the Royal Canadian Air Force. Representing the U.S. Air Force under a RCAF-USAF officer exchange program is Capt. Catherine L. Farrar. Captain Farrar's counterpart from the RCAF will be assigned to the Scott AFB squadron.

ARPA DEPUTY PROMOTED to Director of Information Processing Techniques, Robert W. Taylor, succeeds Dr. Ivan Sutherland, who has left DOD's Advanced Research Projects Agency to join Harvard's faculty. Prior to his DOD assignment, Mr. Taylor served with NASA where he managed research programs relating to flight simulation, display and manned flight control systems.

PRESIDENT'S ACCIDENT program to reduce industrial mishaps is being emphasized by Navy. Navy points out the President's Mission Safety 70 program has enabled it to achieve a 100 percent accident free year at the Naval Supply Depot at Mechanicsburg, Pa., a plant employing mostly blue-collar workers. Mission 70 program is aimed at reducing accidents and injuries within federal government by 30 percent by 1970.

NEW COMPUTERIZED SUPPLY system designed to speed up issue of supplies and produce uniformity among Air Force supply organizations has been adopted by Eglin AFB, Fla., Chief of Supply Division. In use at approximately 140 Air Force bases, the new system uses Univac 105-II computer and is capable of taking requests for any of estimated 150,000 items in Air Force Proving Ground inventory.

KOREAN DEFENSE MINISTER Kim Sung Eun paid courtesy calls at the Pentagon March 15 on Defense Secretary McNamara and Air Force Secretary Brown. He also visited in Washington with President Johnson and Secretary of State Rusk.

FLYING TRAINING PORTION of the C-47 Combat Crew Training School at Hurlburt Field, Fla., has been transferred to England AFB, La. Students will continue to report to Hurlburt for 10 days of ground training. Upon completion of flying training, students report to ports of aerial embarkation.

CONSTRUCTION OF $75,000 memorial to Special Warfare men killed in combat has begun at John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare, Ft. Bragg, N.C. Brig. Gen. A. E. Milloy, commanding general of Center for Special Warfare, broke ground for memorial on March 13.

SUPERSONIC TRAINING FLIGHTS by Strategic Air Command SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft are being flown twice weekly from Beale AFB, Calif., over the western and southern portions of the U.S. The SR-71 operates at altitudes above 80,000 feet at speeds up to Mach 3, which is about 2,000 miles per hour.

SELECTION BOARD to consider eligible Marine Corps Reserve officers for promotion to captain has convened at Headquarters Marine Corps. Board is expected to be in session about 10 days.

NEW GRENADE LAUNCHER has been developed for Army by Colt Firearms Company to fit barrel of M-16 rifle. The XM148 will increase rifle company firepower by nearly 25 percent, according to a Colt design engineer.

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AF Leaders Term Bombing Military Targets Effective

The top Air Force civilian and military leaders share views that controlled bombing of military targets in North Vietnam has been effective and is costing the communists heavily in terms of resources, manpower and military capability.

Air Force Secretary Harold Brown told Air Force Association Convention delegates in San Francisco that the controlled bombing of military targets in the North has been the most precise in the history of air warfare.

Restraint and Capability Demonstrated

In a separate speech, Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell said: "The very fact that our aircraft bypass some of the most lucrative targets and, instead, strike adjacent targets of seemingly lesser importance, demonstrates both our restraint and our capability to destroy all targets that are vital to North Vietnam's continued existence.

"It is this added factor which, hopefully, will impress on the North Vietnamese rulers futility and risk of their continued aggression."

Secretary Brown and Gen. McConnell also cited enormous cargo movements from the North to South Vietnam during the pause in U.S. bombing of the North in the Lunar New Year's period in February.

"Not only did the North Vietnamese demonstrate a large, unimpeded logistic capability," Mr. Brown said, "they showed a desire to provide their forces with more war goods."

Gen. McConnell said that the North moved more supplies in four days of the bombing pause than they normally could in a month or more.

"Together with ground and air action in the South," Secretary Brown said, "it has firmly established the fact that the communists cannot win this war, although we have not yet succeeded in stopping communist aggression."

High Percentage of Professionals

In the area of Air Force manpower, Secretary Brown noted that the war in Vietnam is the first in this country's history to be fought "on our side largely by professionals."

He said this is particularly true of the air war, explaining that today "more than 50 percent of our officers corps and 90 percent of the non-coms are professionals—not only in skills and competence but also in the sense that they have more than 10 years' service."

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS—Maj. Gen. Fred C. Weyand (center), former 25th Infantry Div. commander, is congratulated by Lt. Gen. Jean Engler, deputy commander, U.S. Army Vietnam, upon receiving the Distinguished Service Cross. Presentation was made at the 25th's forward area, where Maj. Gen. John C. F. Tillson III (right), assumed command of the division.

NCO Academy Refresher Slated For Some RVN-Bound Army NCOs

Some Army combat NCOs slated for Vietnam assignment will attend enroute a two-week orientation-refresher course at the Fifth Army NCO Academy, Ft. Riley, Kans., beginning June 19.

The course is for senior NCOs going to Vietnam after completing extended non-branch-oriented assignments. It applies to infantry, armor, field artillery, engineers and communications career fields.

NCOs to be selected are those enroute to Vietnam as sergeants major, first sergeants, operations sergeants, intelligence sergeants, platoon sergeants and communications sergeants.

Most of the instruction will be branch-immaterial. Appropriate branch-oriented instruction will also be presented. The curriculum, however, will vary depending on composition of each class and on experience gained from initial classes.

Four Veterans of Vietnam Service Honored at Gridiron Club Banquet

Four decorated Vietnam veterans, representing each of the U.S. armed services, were honored by top-level dignitaries during the annual fun-making banquet of newsmen at the Washington Gridiron Club.

Flown to Washington from Vietnam for the special event were Army Specialist Fourth Class Norman J. Richards, Navy Boatswain's Mate Second Class Ralph E. Powers, Marine Corporal Dennis P. May and Airman First Class David V. Euley.

Air Combat Simulator Nears Operational Status At AF Proving Ground

An $11 million electronic target system simulating actual air combat conditions will soon go into operation at the Air Proving Ground Center (APGC) at Eglin AFB, Fla.

Known as the Air Force Weapons Effectiveness Testing (AFWET) Instrumentation System, the unit will provide simultaneous operation of 26 test targets which will compete as offensive and defensive forces. The targets include 15 aircraft, five radar sites, five antiaircraft guns and an optical tracker.

During simulated attacks, electronic computers will register hits and misses. Once a target is struck, it will be immediately deleted from the test.

The AFWET Instrumentation System is designed to monitor the performance of all test aircraft from ground level to 70,000 feet within a 50-mile radius of Eglin AFB, and to determine the effectiveness, survivability and limitations of U.S. air weapons.

R&R Processing Center Opened at Cam Rahn Bay

A Rest and Recuperation (R&R) processing center, operated by elements of the 22nd Replacement Battalion, was officially opened by Brig. Gen. Mahlon E. Gates, commanding general of the 1st Logistical Command's Cam Rahn Bay Support Command.

The center will process all military and civilian personnel from the II Corps area in South Vietnam for R&R to Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Manila, Taipe, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Hawaii and Tokyo.

The center features a 1500-man mess hall, clubs, a 4000-square foot processing room and eight two-story barracks. The center currently accommodates 1100 men, but will be increased to handle 1750 with the completion of new buildings.

MEMORIES OF THE "OLD CORPS" —Marine Corps general officers, Brig. Gen. Marion E. Carl, CG, MCAS Cherry Point (left), Maj. Gen. Joseph O. Butcher (center) and Maj. Gen. Norman J. Anderson, CG, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (right), reminisce over photographs taken at the North Carolina air station during World War II. Gen. Butcher, CG, Camp Lejeune, visited the air station shortly after taking command of the Marine Corps Base a short distance away in North Carolina.

AF Systems Command Gets Portable Comm. Facility

A lightweight, tactical communications facility for use in limited war has been acquired by the Air Force Systems Command's Electronic Systems Division (ESD) at Hanscom Field, Mass.

Designated the AN/TRC-97A or "track 97," the equipment was originally developed by the Marine Corps, but additional development required to adapt the basic equipment to Air Force Tactical Air Control System requirements was accomplished by ESD.

ESD officials said the equipment will provide highly transportable communications terminals in remote areas, adding it can be shipped by truck, cargo aircraft or helicopter sling-lift. In addition, the "track 97" can be set up, aligned and put into operation by two men in less than an hour.

Navy Seeks Proposals For LHA Assault Ship

Two shipbuilding firms and two aerospace companies have been invited by the Naval Ship Systems Command to submit proposals for developing the new LHA amphibious assault ship.

Asked to outline the approaches they intend to follow in the contract definition phase are: Avondale Shipyards, Inc., General Dynamics Corp., Litton Industries, Inc., and Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co.

LHA assault ships were described by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara in his January "posture" statement to Congress as part of DOD's mobility concept for the 1970s which includes Air Force C-5A airlift giants and the Navy's Fast Deployment Logistics (FDL) ships.

Mr. McNamara said the general characteristics of these LHA vessels would be large size—about 40,000 tons with a cruise speed of about 20 knots—and a large carrying capacity ——as much cargo, troops and helicopters as earlier-type assault ships combined.

The Defense Secretary said the projected LHA fleet would be designed to carry one and one-half Marine Expeditionary Force. A Marine Expeditionary Force comprises at least one full division and one entire Air Wing.

Midshipmen, AF Cadets To Take Jungle Training

Army jungle warfare training will be given to 15 Naval Academy midshipmen and 72 Air Force Academy cadets at the School of Americas, Ft. Gulick, Canal Zone, during June-August.

The two-week Jungle Operations Course is for those operating in or anticipating operations in jungle areas. The course emphasizes counter guerrilla tactics and techniques in a jungle environment.

Some 1,500 Army officers and NCOs have received jungle warfare training at the school from mid-1966 to March 1967.

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